

Name _____
Date _____
Class _____

THE BASICS

1. What is sediment

Answer: Sediment is a general term for dirt and debris that are carried in storm run off and deposited into the ocean.

2. What causes sediment plumes and what time of year do they occur?

Answer: Heavy rains cause sediment plumes. They usually occur in the wintertime.

3. What are Phytoplankton?

Answer: Phytoplankton are microscopic marine plants that live in the upper layers of the oceans. Also known as green Algae

4. Why does phytoplankton bloom and when does it happen?

Answer: Phytoplankton blooms because of an increase in food, or nutrients, available to them. They usually bloom in the spring time, much like land based plants.

5. Is the cycle of Plumes and Blooms seasonal? How?

Answer: Yes it is seasonal. Plumes form in the winter during rainstorms. Blooms occur in the spring time after a whole winter of rain has raised nutrient levels in the channel.

THE PROJECT

1. What organizations are involved in the Plumes and Blooms project?

1. UCSB- ICESS 2. NOAA 3. CINMS

2. How long have they been conducting research?

Answer: Since 1996

3. Why do we study sediment plumes and phytoplankton blooms?

Answer: To better understand the potential impacts of current storm runoff in the ocean.

4. If the project is focused on Plumes and Blooms why is research conducted year round instead of just in the winter and spring?

Answer: Research is conducted year round in order to provide the most accurate information about conditions in the channel

5. What are the two different types of cruises that plumes and blooms conducts? How are they different?

Answer: Core cruises go out twice a month on a regular basis and Process cruises only go out during storms.